

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An information stream monitoring system comprising:
an information monitoring device that monitors one or more electronic documents in an information stream, and compares information about the one or more electronic documents to at least one rule; and
a forum spawning device that queries a set of users when at least one of the at least one rules is satisfied, and creates a new forum based on one or more replies from the set of users.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an invitation determining device that determines the set of users queried by the forum spawning device based on the one or more electronic documents.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the forum spawning device queries the set of users to determine the a need for the new forum.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a subscriber determining device that determines a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy at least one rule.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a subscriber maintenance device that associates at least one user and the new forum.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an electronic document storage device that stores the one or more electronic documents.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic document is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the an information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.
9. (Previously Presented) An information stream monitoring method comprising:
monitoring one or more electronic documents in an information stream;
comparing information about the one or more electronic documents to at least one rule; and
querying a set of users when at least one of the at least one rules is satisfied;
and
creating a new forum automatically based on one or more replies from the set of users.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising determining a set of message recipients based on the one or more electronic documents.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein querying the set of users determines need for the new forum.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising determining a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy at least one rule.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising associating at least one user and the new forum.
14. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising storing the one or more electronic documents.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more electronic document documents is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the an information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

17. (Original) An information storage media comprising:
information that monitors one or more electronic documents in an information stream;
information that compares information about the one or more electronic documents to at least one rule;
information that queries a set of users when at least one of the at least one rules is satisfied; and
information that creates a new forum based on replies from the set of users.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising information that determines a set of message recipients based on the one or more electronic documents.
19. (Original) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein querying the set of users determines need for the new forum.
20. (Original) The information storage media of claim 17, further comprising information that determines a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy at least one rule.
21. (Original) The information storage media of claim 17, further comprising information that associates at least one user and the new forum.
22. (Original) The information storage media of claim 17, further comprising information that stores the one or more electronic documents.
23. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the one or more electronic document documents is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.
24. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the an information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

25. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the previously presented information comparison compares at least one of: subject information; electronic document posting information; and electronic document tracking information.

26. (Previously Presented) An information monitoring system comprising:
an information monitoring device for monitoring data associated with electronic documents in an information stream, the information monitoring device adapted to compare the data from the electronic documents according to a rule; and
a forum spawning device for querying a set of users when the rule is satisfied, and for creating a forum based on a reply from the set of users.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

29. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum comprising one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the users.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum comprising one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the users.

33. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum comprising one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the users.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the information stream is an electronic forum comprising one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the users.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the current discussion forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the current discussion forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

37. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the at least one rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the current discussion forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the forum; whether

there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the current discussion forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

39. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the comparison is between newer messages and older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

40. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the information monitoring device detects whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional messages.

41. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the users of the new forum receive messages from both the original forum and the new forum.

42. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the comparing is comparing newer messages to older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising detecting whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional messages.

44. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the users of the new forum receive messages from both the original forum and the new forum.

45. (New) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the comparison is between newer messages and older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

46. (New) The information storage media of claim 45, further comprising information that detects whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional messages.

47. (New) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the users of the new forum receive messages from both the original forum and the new forum.

48. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the comparison is between newer messages and older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

49. (New) The system of claim 48, wherein the information monitoring device detects whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional messages.

50. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the users of the new forum receive messages from both the original forum and the new forum.